

# one hen by katie smith milway

**one hen by katie smith milway** is a compelling children's book that combines storytelling with important lessons about economics, poverty, and entrepreneurship. The book, written by Katie Smith Milway, tells the inspiring story of a young girl in Ghana who transforms her life and her community by starting with just one hen. This story is not only an engaging narrative but also a valuable educational tool that introduces readers to concepts of microfinance and sustainable development. This article explores the themes, educational value, and impact of *One Hen*, as well as its use in classrooms and its relevance to real-world economic principles. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of why this book remains a significant resource for teaching social studies and economics to young audiences.

- Overview of One Hen by Katie Smith Milway
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## Overview of One Hen by Katie Smith Milway

*One Hen* tells the story of Kojo, a young boy living in a small village in Ghana. With the help of a loan from a local credit union, Kojo buys a single hen that lays eggs which he sells to earn money. This initial investment grows into a thriving microbusiness, enabling Kojo to improve his family's life and contribute to his community. The narrative is based on true principles of microfinance and entrepreneurship that have helped many people in developing countries rise out of poverty.

This book blends engaging storytelling with factual economic concepts, making it an accessible introduction to global issues such as poverty, financial literacy, and community development. Katie Smith Milway's writing style makes complex ideas understandable for children, encouraging empathy and curiosity about different cultures and economic realities.

## Plot Summary

The story begins with Kojo's family struggling to afford food and basic necessities. When Kojo receives a loan to buy one hen, he carefully tends to it and sells its eggs. He reinvests the profits to buy more hens, eventually establishing a poultry business. Through his hard work and determination, Kojo not only changes his own life but also inspires his community to pursue small business ventures that foster economic growth.

## Key Characters

Kojo is the protagonist whose journey from poverty to prosperity drives the story. Other important characters include Kojo's family members and the credit union officer who provides guidance and financial support. These characters illustrate the importance of community and support systems in achieving success.

## Main Themes and Messages

*One Hen* explores several important themes that resonate with readers of all ages. The book emphasizes the power of entrepreneurship, the significance of financial literacy, and the impact of community support on overcoming poverty. These themes are woven naturally into the narrative, providing meaningful lessons alongside an engaging story.

## Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment

The story highlights how small-scale entrepreneurial activities can lead to significant improvements in quality of life. Kojo's ability to transform a modest loan into a profitable business demonstrates how access to financial resources and knowledge empowers individuals to create sustainable economic opportunities.

## Microfinance and Community Development

Microfinance plays a central role in the book, showcasing how small loans can enable impoverished individuals to start businesses and generate income. The tale emphasizes the importance of local financial institutions and community support in fostering economic independence and social progress.

## Education and Financial Literacy

Through Kojo's journey, young readers learn about saving, investing, and business growth. The story encourages critical thinking about money management and the value of hard work, providing foundational financial education in an accessible format.

# Educational Value and Classroom Use

*One Hen* by Katie Smith Milway is widely used in educational settings to teach children about economics, global citizenship, and social studies. Its combination of storytelling and real-world applications makes it a versatile tool for educators aiming to introduce complex subjects in an engaging way.

## Curriculum Integration

The book aligns well with curriculum standards in social studies, economics, and multicultural education. Teachers use it to explore topics such as poverty, entrepreneurship, cultural diversity, and sustainable development. It serves as a starting point for discussions, projects, and activities related to global economics and ethics.

## Classroom Activities

Educators often supplement the book with interactive lessons, including:

- Role-playing as entrepreneurs to understand business challenges
- Simulating microloans and savings plans
- Mapping economic concepts through Kojo's story
- Researching microfinance initiatives around the world
- Creative writing exercises inspired by the narrative

## Benefits for Students

Students develop empathy for people living in different socioeconomic conditions and gain a practical understanding of financial concepts. The book promotes critical thinking and global awareness, helping young learners appreciate the interconnectedness of economies and cultures.

## Impact on Readers and Communities

The influence of *One Hen* extends beyond the classroom. The book has inspired readers globally to learn more about microfinance and social entrepreneurship. It encourages a mindset of possibility and resilience,

showing how small actions can lead to meaningful change.

## Real-World Applications

Many readers have been motivated to support microfinance organizations or to engage in community development projects. The story's message supports the idea that economic empowerment is a key factor in breaking poverty cycles and improving lives.

## Global Reach and Recognition

The book has received acclaim for its educational content and its ability to communicate important social issues to children. It is used by nonprofits, educators, and community organizations worldwide to promote financial literacy and social responsibility.

## Author Background and Inspiration

Katie Smith Milway is an author and educator with a focus on creating literature that combines storytelling with educational themes. Her background in international development and education influenced the creation of *One Hen*, aiming to present complex social issues in a child-friendly format.

## Writing Style and Approach

Milway's writing is clear, engaging, and informative. She uses narrative techniques that resonate with young readers while embedding educational content organically. Her approach balances storytelling with factual accuracy and cultural sensitivity.

## Inspiration Behind One Hen

The book was inspired by real microfinance programs and stories of individuals who overcame poverty through small loans and entrepreneurship. Milway sought to create a narrative that would inspire hope and understanding among children about global economic challenges.

## Related Resources and Extensions

To enhance the learning experience provided by *One Hen* by Katie Smith Milway, numerous resources and activities have been developed. These help expand understanding and encourage active engagement with the book's themes.

## Supplementary Materials

Teachers and parents can find lesson plans, discussion questions, and activity guides designed to complement the book. These materials support deeper exploration of economics, culture, and social issues.

## Community and Educational Programs

Some educational programs incorporate *One Hen* into broader initiatives about financial literacy and global awareness. These programs often include:

- Workshops on microfinance and entrepreneurship
- Interactive storytelling sessions
- Group projects focused on community development
- Partnerships with organizations that support economic empowerment

## Extensions for Further Learning

Readers interested in expanding their knowledge can explore topics such as global poverty, sustainable development, and the economics of developing countries. Additional books and multimedia resources complement the themes introduced in *One Hen*.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the main theme of 'One Hen' by Katie Smith Milway?

The main theme of 'One Hen' is the impact of entrepreneurship and how a small loan can lead to significant positive change in a community.

### Who is the protagonist in 'One Hen' and what is his goal?

The protagonist is Kojo, a young boy from Ghana who dreams of starting a small business to improve his family's situation.

## **How does Kojo use the loan he receives in 'One Hen'?**

Kojo uses the loan to buy a hen, which he raises and sells eggs from, gradually expanding his business.

## **What lesson does 'One Hen' teach about microfinance?**

The book illustrates how microfinance can empower individuals in developing countries to become self-sufficient and improve their communities.

## **Why is 'One Hen' considered an educational book?**

It combines storytelling with real-world concepts of economics, entrepreneurship, and social change, making it educational for young readers.

## **How does Kojo's business affect his village in 'One Hen'?**

Kojo's success inspires others in his village to start their own small businesses, leading to community growth and improved living conditions.

## **What age group is 'One Hen' suitable for?**

'One Hen' is suitable for children aged 7 to 12 years old, especially those interested in social studies and economics.

## **What inspired Katie Smith Milway to write 'One Hen'?**

Katie Smith Milway was inspired by real stories of micro-loans changing lives in developing countries, aiming to teach children about global entrepreneurship.

## **Does 'One Hen' include any additional educational resources?**

Yes, the book often comes with a teacher's guide that includes activities and discussion questions to extend learning.

## **What cultural aspects are highlighted in 'One Hen'?**

The book highlights Ghanaian culture and rural life, providing readers with insight into the daily challenges and opportunities in that region.

## **Additional Resources**

1. *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference* by Katie Smith Milway

This is the original story about Kojo, a young boy in Ghana who receives a small loan to buy a hen. Through his hard work and determination, Kojo transforms his life and helps his community. The book highlights the power of microfinance and entrepreneurship in developing countries. It's an inspiring tale that introduces readers to economic concepts in an accessible way.

2. *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia* by Miranda Paul

This book tells the story of Isatou Ceesay, a woman from the Gambia who started a recycling movement to tackle the problem of plastic waste. Like "One Hen," it showcases how a small effort can lead to significant community change. The story celebrates environmental activism and female empowerment.

3. *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman

This novel explores how a diverse group of people in an urban neighborhood come together to transform a vacant lot into a thriving community garden. It emphasizes themes of community, cooperation, and the impact of small actions. The book offers multiple perspectives, making it a rich and engaging read.

4. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Based on a true story, this book follows William Kamkwamba, a boy from Malawi who builds a windmill to bring electricity to his village. It highlights ingenuity, perseverance, and the importance of education. Readers learn about overcoming adversity through creativity and determination.

5. *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña

This picture book follows a young boy and his grandmother on a bus ride through their city. It explores themes of gratitude, community, and seeing beauty in everyday life. The story encourages readers to appreciate their surroundings and the people around them.

6. *Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai

This autobiographical picture book tells the story of Malala Yousafzai's childhood and her wish for a magic pencil to improve the world. It introduces young readers to ideas about activism, education, and courage. The book inspires children to believe in their ability to make a difference.

7. *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

This novel tells the story of a girl named Opal who adopts a stray dog, Winn-Dixie, which helps her make friends and bring her community closer together. The book explores themes of friendship, kindness, and healing. It's a heartwarming story about connection and belonging.

8. *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv

Though a nonfiction book, it discusses the importance of connecting children with nature for their emotional and physical well-being. The book encourages outdoor play and environmental stewardship, resonating with themes of community and responsibility seen in "One Hen." It offers insights for parents and educators.

9. *The Paper Crane* by Molly Bang

This picture book is a modern adaptation of a Japanese folktale about kindness and the ripple effect of good

deeds. It beautifully illustrates how one small act can grow into something much larger, aligning with the core message of "One Hen." The story is simple but powerful, suitable for young readers.

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